



News from White Haven

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, dedicated to Civil War General and 18th President Ulysses S. Grant and his wife, Julia Dent Grant, is located in south St. Louis County, Missouri.

News from White Haven is a quarterly publication of Ulysses S. Grant NHS. It is also available online by visiting www.nps.gov/ulsg/.

Editorial Staff

Pam Sanfilippo
Abbi Telander

Chief of Interpretation

Arlene Jackson

Superintendent

Timothy S. Good

Contributors

David Newmann

Comments? Write to:

Chief of Interpretation
Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site
7400 Grant Road
St. Louis, MO 63123

Telephone

314-842-1867

E-mail

ulsg_interpretation@nps.gov

New Phone Number

The phone number at Ulysses S. Grant NHS has changed. Our new number is 314-842-1867, and the extension to reach the Visitor Center is 230.

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

New Americans Take Citizenship Oath



Airman First Class Sayl Imad Ayoob, left, swears the Oath of Allegiance to become a U.S. citizen at a ceremony at Ulysses S. Grant NHS. Administering the oath is The Honorable Thomas C. Mummert III of the Eastern District of Missouri U.S. District Court.

"...that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the armed forces of the United States when required by the law; ..."

On November 10, 2011, the day before the Veterans Day federal holiday, these words from the oath of citizenship to the United States perhaps took on additional meaning to the 25 people who became citizens during a naturalization ceremony at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site.

The new citizens came from 13 different countries across four continents. The Honorable

Thomas C. Mummert III from the United States District Court presided over the ceremony and commented on the fact that people can move to France and never be considered French, but people from any other country can move to the United States and become American.

Judge Mummert encouraged each of the new citizens to become active participants in their communities. He also urged them to keep the best of their traditions and practices from their old lives to strengthen their new country as immigrants have been doing throughout the nation's history.

February Events Focus on President Grant's Administration

In February 2012, Ulysses S. Grant NHS will celebrate two significant achievements of President Ulysses S. Grant's administration.

On Saturday, February 4, the site will celebrate the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution, ratified on February 3, 1870.

Historically, presidents would simply forward the ratification information to Congress, but in an unusual move, President Grant added his own message to Congress and the public. He wrote, in part, "A measure which makes at once four millions of people voters, who were heretofore declared by the highest tribunal in the land not citizens of the United States, nor eligible to become so, with the assertion that... 'black men had no rights which white men were bound to respect,' is indeed a measure of grander importance than any other one act of the kind from the foundation of our free Government to the present time."

Lynne Jackson, great-great-granddaughter of Dred and



This poster, printed by C. Rogan of Savannah, Georgia, in 1871, commemorates the ratification of the 15th Amendment. Grant is shown in the center, flanked by other famous men, both living (William T. Sherman, far right) and dead (Abraham Lincoln, third from the left). Images of African Americans exercising their new freedoms, such as voting, serving in the military, and participating in the legal process, surround the signers.

Harriet Scott, is the guest speaker.

The second event will take place on February 11, commemorating the creation of The Division of Telegrams and Reports for the Benefit of Commerce. Today, we know that agency as the National Weather Service. The initial purpose of the network in

1870 was for commerce. Since then, it has developed into a system of forecasts and warnings that help us plan daily activities and alert us to severe weather conditions, thereby saving lives during tornadoes, heat waves, hurricanes, and blizzards.

Please call (314)842-1867 for additional information.

Victory at Fort Donelson Brings Grant National Recognition

Following the unconditional Confederate surrender at Fort Donelson on February 16, 1862, General Ulysses S. Grant rocketed into the public eye. His promotion to major general came soon after, prompting the Missouri Daily

Democrat to say on February 24, 1862: "We are glad to see an enterprising, *fighting* officer like General Grant receive a prompt recognition of his merits. He has earned advanced rank on the field, as Napoleon's marshals earned

their batons." On March 1, the Democrat said further: "General Grant's promotion gives great satisfaction to the best military men of his command.... [H]e has not failed to impress all who have come in contact with him."

Spotlight on the Park: Special Exhibit

Ulysses S. Grant NHS welcomes a special exhibit from the Missouri State Archives to the park this winter. Divided Loyalties: Civil War Documents from the Missouri State Archives is on display from January 9 until February 21, 2012.



Loyalty oaths, such as this one, were required of former and suspected Confederates following the war. Documents like loyalty oaths help tell the story of Missourians' Civil War experience.

Divided Loyalties draws on the Missouri State Archives' extensive document collection to tell the story of Missouri during and after the Civil War. The goal of the exhibit is not to focus on battles and skirmishes, but to illuminate the social conflict and upheaval that raged in Missouri before, during and after the war.

This exhibit has been traveling the state since 2010 and will be on view at different museums, libraries, and historical societies all around Missouri through the end of the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

Meet the Staff: Historian Pam Sanfilippo

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site Historian Pam Sanfilippo is headed to Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park to be their temporary Chief of Interpretation.

Pam started as a seasonal park ranger at Ulysses S. Grant NHS in May 1995, when the site first opened full time to the public. She was promoted to Historian on April 27, 1997, (Grant's birthday!) and also works on education programs.

"I'm looking forward to the opportunity to gain some experience working in a different position at a different park," Pam said. "I'm confident the detail will allow me to further develop my skills while benefitting the Lincoln Birthplace until they can find a permanent replacement."

Lincoln Birthplace is located in Hodgenville, Kentucky, about an hour south of Louisville. Pam's 120-day detail begins January 15.

Kids' Corner: Growing Up in the White House

When Jesse Grant was 10 years old, his father, Ulysses S. Grant, was elected president of the United States. The Grant family lived in the White House for eight years, and Jesse enjoyed many perks to being the President's son.

Jesse's mother, Julia, had the grounds behind the White House closed to the public so he and his sister Nellie could play there. Jesse learned to ride his velocipede (which is like a bicycle) and he and his friends also enjoyed playing in a playhouse in the backyard. They wrote and printed their own newspaper, the K.F.R. Journal, from their playhouse. They also used Jesse's toy fire engine to form their own fire brigade at the White House to fight pretend fires.

Jesse and his father had a very close relationship, and they especially enjoyed talking in the morning over breakfast.



Jesse Grant and his grandfather, Col. Frederick Dent, are pictured here in Washington D.C. near the end of the Civil War.

One day when Jesse was late again to breakfast, President Grant scolded him, saying, "When I was your age, I had to get up, feed four or five horses, cut wood for the family, take breakfast and be off to school before eight o'clock." Jesse just grinned and said, "Oh yes, but you did not have such a papa as I have." Grant had to admit that though his son was "a rascal," he was certainly right.



Ulysses S. Grant NHS
7400 Grant Road
St. Louis, MO 63123
(314) 842-1867

Upcoming Events

- January 9 - February 21: Divided Loyalties, an exhibit from the Missouri State Archives, at the Ulysses S. Grant NHS Visitor Center.
- February 4: Commemoration of the passage of the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, 10 a.m. Featured speaker: Lynne Jackson, descendant of Dred and Harriet Scott. Call 314-842-1867 x230 for reservations.
- February 11: Commemoration of the creation of the National Weather Service. Featuring an address by a meteorologist from the National Weather Service Office in St. Louis. Call 314-842-1867 x230 for reservations.
- March (dates TBA): “Mail Call,” a Civil War soldiers’ letters exhibit, will be on display in the visitor center. Call 314-842-1867 x230 for more information.
- April 21: National Park Service Junior Ranger Day with special activities at Ulysses S. Grant NHS.

Did you know?

At the beginning of the Civil War, Jefferson Barracks, just south of St. Louis, Missouri, was the largest military installation west of the Mississippi. Following the battle of Fort Donelson in 1862, Jefferson Barracks also became a major

military hospital, starting a long tradition of St. Louis being home to medical care for veterans of the nation’s military. In 1862 the hospital complex was designed to hold 3,000 patients and by the end of the war over 18,000 soldiers had been treated. Although

Jefferson Barracks has not been an active army post since 1946, a portion of the former hospital military base is home to a large Veterans’ Administration facility serving our military men and women of all needs and from all conflicts.